

played a major role in the purchase of various structures for Wolf Trap Farm Park, one of the finest facilities in the area, and dedicated substantial time to the Park as an early Trustee, Executive Committee Co-Chairman and Finance Committee Chairman of the Wolf Trap Foundation. On a more personal scale, Jerry was also involved in the landscaping of Trinity United Methodist Church and the Churchill Road Elementary School playground, both in McLean. A common thread runs through these disparate projects. Knowing him as I do, I am convinced that Jerry undertook each, not to advance his personal ambitions, but to promote the public interest. That's why many who live in the region are familiar with Jerry's commercial work but are less familiar with his public works. That is because Jerry is not a self-promoter, and I know he did not seek the honor that was bestowed upon him by the Federation of Citizens Associations. I am glad, however, that his selflessness has been recognized, not so much because Jerry needs awards, but because he provides the community with such a positive role model.

Despite his many years of work and service, Jerry Halpin is still going strong. He currently serves as Chairman of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, as a Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and as a Director and Chairman of the Finance Committee for the National Capital Bicentennial Celebration. These current activities build on many in the past, such as his service with the American Horticultural Society, the American Museum of Immigration, the National Parks and Recreation Association, the Virginia Museum of Science, the Boarder Baby Project Gala, and the Medical Care for Children Partnership Awards Dinner. Jerry has also volunteered his time and leadership skills to many charitable organizations including the McLean Project for the Arts, United Community Ministries, the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, Hospice of Northern Virginia, Fairfax Hospital and Northern Virginia Community College.

Jerry's civic participation has extended to various public boards and commissions. During my term as Governor of Virginia, I appointed him to the Governor's Task Force on Science and Technology and to the Governor's Joint Study Committee to inquire into the practicality of creating a Coal Slurry Pipeline in Virginia. Jerry served as a member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Industrial Development under Governors Holton, Godwin and Dalton. He was also a member of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority and its predecessor organizations for over eight years.

Jerry Halpin has been a personal friend of mine for many years now. For over forty years, he has provided com-

munity leadership not only for Fairfax County, but to all of Northern Virginia and the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and "The Washington Post" could not have selected anyone more deserving than Jerry Halpin to be the 1998 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. George Hartzog, the former Director of the National Park Service, has called Jerry a "treasure to mankind"—I couldn't have said it better. •

RECOGNIZING THE "STEPS AHEAD" PROGRAM IN SEATTLE, WA

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, during this past recess, I had the pleasure of presenting my Innovation in Education Awards to two excellent recipients, one of which I would like to recognize now.

One award was given to the "Steps Ahead" program from "Community for Youth." Community for Youth is a local non-profit organization in Seattle whose Steps Ahead program provides adult mentors to youth at risk of academic or social failure. This program has been in existence for eight years and has demonstrated remarkable progress in transforming the lives of students who might otherwise fall through the cracks of our education system.

Steps Ahead's curriculum focuses on five key factors for student behavior: (1) Building a positive self-image, (2) Expressing themselves assertively rather than passively or aggressively, (3) Accepting responsibility for their behavior rather than making excuses, (4) Setting and keeping realistic goals in life and (5) Making conscious decisions to solve problems rather than reactively letting the world pass them by. These may seem like exceedingly basic principles but, this focus has reaped great rewards with the students it has reached.

The students involved in this program have, for whatever reason been labeled as "at-risk." Fortunately, through the simple concept of restoring self-respect, accountability, and confidence, the Steps Ahead program has achieved outstanding results. Steps Ahead participants have fewer dropouts and fewer expulsions from school than their peers. The Steps Ahead students also have ten percent better classroom attendance, twenty-five percent fewer grades, and fifteen percent fewer dropouts, expulsions and long term suspensions—all this is the heart of metropolitan Seattle where the scourge of dropouts rates, poor attendance, and violent behavioral problems have traditionally been some of the worst in Washington state.

Community for Youth's efforts thought the Steps Ahead program is just one piece of the puzzle of trying to improve the lives and education of

troubled youth. More importantly, perhaps, Steps Ahead has accomplished these feats by teaming up with local business to provide funding and mentors and by teaming up with the Seattle School District to target school populations most in need of mentoring. This type of common-sense and community-oriented approach to solving a difficult education problem demonstrates the exact reason why I began this Innovation in Education Award program.

I think any of my colleagues would be hard pressed to prove the kind of program I am talking about here today could come from the innovation of a bureaucrat here in Washington, DC. Rather, it is the hard work of the people that look into the eyes of our children every day, the parents, the teachers, the school administrators, and the volunteers like those at Steps Ahead, who make a difference in the lives of our children.

I am pleased to have been able to recognize Steps Ahead and Community For Youth with an Innovation in Education Award. They represent the ideals in education that deserve our support. •

TRUE AMERICAN HEROES: A SALUTE TO BOYD CLINES, LARRY ROGERS, AND MATT MOSELEY FOR THEIR BRAVERY AND COURAGE IN THE APRIL 12, 1999 DARING RESCUE OF IVERS SIMS

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and salute the heroism and bravery displayed during the brave and daring rescue of Ivers Sims by Atlanta firefighter Matt Moseley, Georgia Department of Natural Resources pilot Boyd Clines, and his navigator, Larry Rogers on April 12, 1999.

Many Americans watched this frightening drama unfold on television, and all prayed for a successful and joyous rescue. Last Monday afternoon, as members of the Atlanta City Fire Department fought a raging fire throughout the historic Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill in southeast Atlanta, Ivers Sims, a construction worker, found himself trapped on top of a swaying, 250-foot crane above the raging fire that had erupted in the mill. Boyd Clines and Larry Rogers arrived on the scene and miraculously negotiated their helicopter through the menacing wind, smoke, and fire which emanated from the cotton mill, while Atlanta firefighter, Matt Moseley, dangled from a rope near the flames—all working together to save the life of Mr. Sims.

Thanks to dedicated teamwork, amazing heroism, courage and valor in risking their own lives, these three brave men rescued Ivers Sims from above the flames, and moments later, all four safely returned to the ground. When I think of these three heroic